



# LGBTQ+ HISTORIC EXPERIENCE PROJECT

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*City of*  
**SACRAMENTO**  
Community Development

# **SACRAMENTO LGBTQ+ HISTORIC EXPERIENCE PROJECT**

## **4 Components:**

1. Historic Context Statement
2. Lavender Heights Historic District survey and nomination
3. Individual Landmark nominations
4. Oral Histories

# LGBTQ+ HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT

## Research Methodology

- Written sources
  - Books
  - Dissertations
  - Journal articles
- Archival sources
  - Newspaper articles (MGW, The Advocate, PATLAR, Latest Issue, Sacramento Star, Sacramento Bee, etc.)
  - Damron Guides
  - Collections at Lavender Library, Center for Sacramento History, Sac State, One Archives (LA), GLBT Historical Society (SF)
  - City directories
- Oral Histories & Community Input
  - Pre-existing recordings
  - Public meetings
  - Small group sessions
  - One-on-one meetings
  - Phone calls
  - Emails
  - Comments on 1<sup>st</sup> Public Draft



# SACRAMENTO LGBTQ+ HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT

Executive Summary

Introduction

Project Background & Goals

Methodology & Outreach

Terminology

1. Early Gender Transgressive Expression in the Sacramento Area (Pre-1940)

2. Finding One Another: World War II & Postwar-Era Sacramento (1941-1968)

3. Out & Proud: Development of a Visible Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community (1969-2000)

4. AIDS & The Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community's Response (1981-1996)

5. Political Activism & The Fight for LGBTQ+ Rights in California's State Capital (1969-2000)

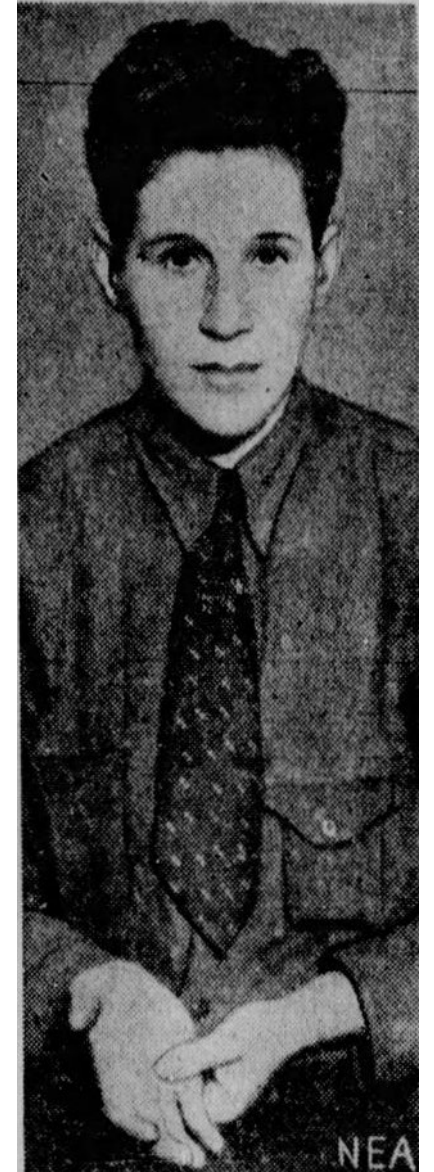
Bibliography

Appendices

- Preservation Goals & Policies
- Historic Designation Eligibility Standards & Criteria
- Lavender Heights Historic District Survey & Evaluation
- Individual Historic Resources Survey & Evaluation

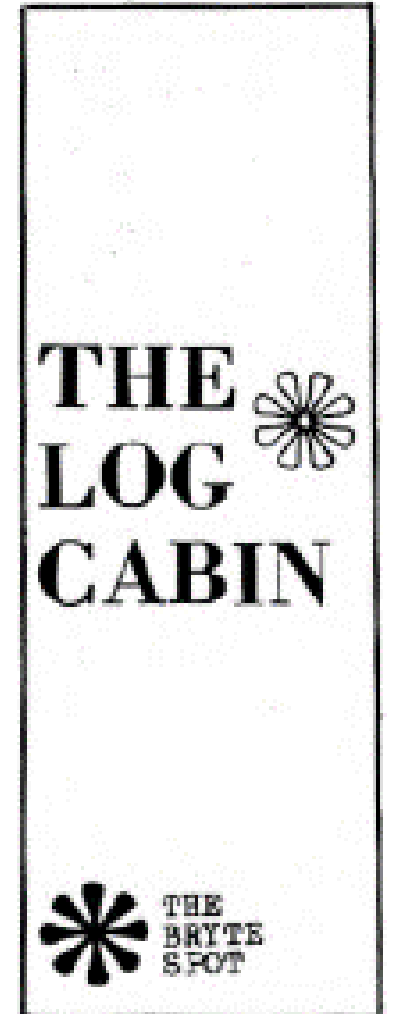
# 1. Early Gender Transgressive Expression in the Sacramento Area (Pre-1940)

- Broad overview of understanding of gender and sexuality in U.S. and California before 1940
  - Two-Spirits in Native American Societies
    - Nisenan, Miwok, and Patwin
  - The American West, 1700s-ca. 1900
  - Development of the Term “Homosexual”
- Sacramento Examples
  - Charley Parkhurst, stagecoach driver
  - Arrests for gender non-normative behavior
  - Male and female impersonators on stage



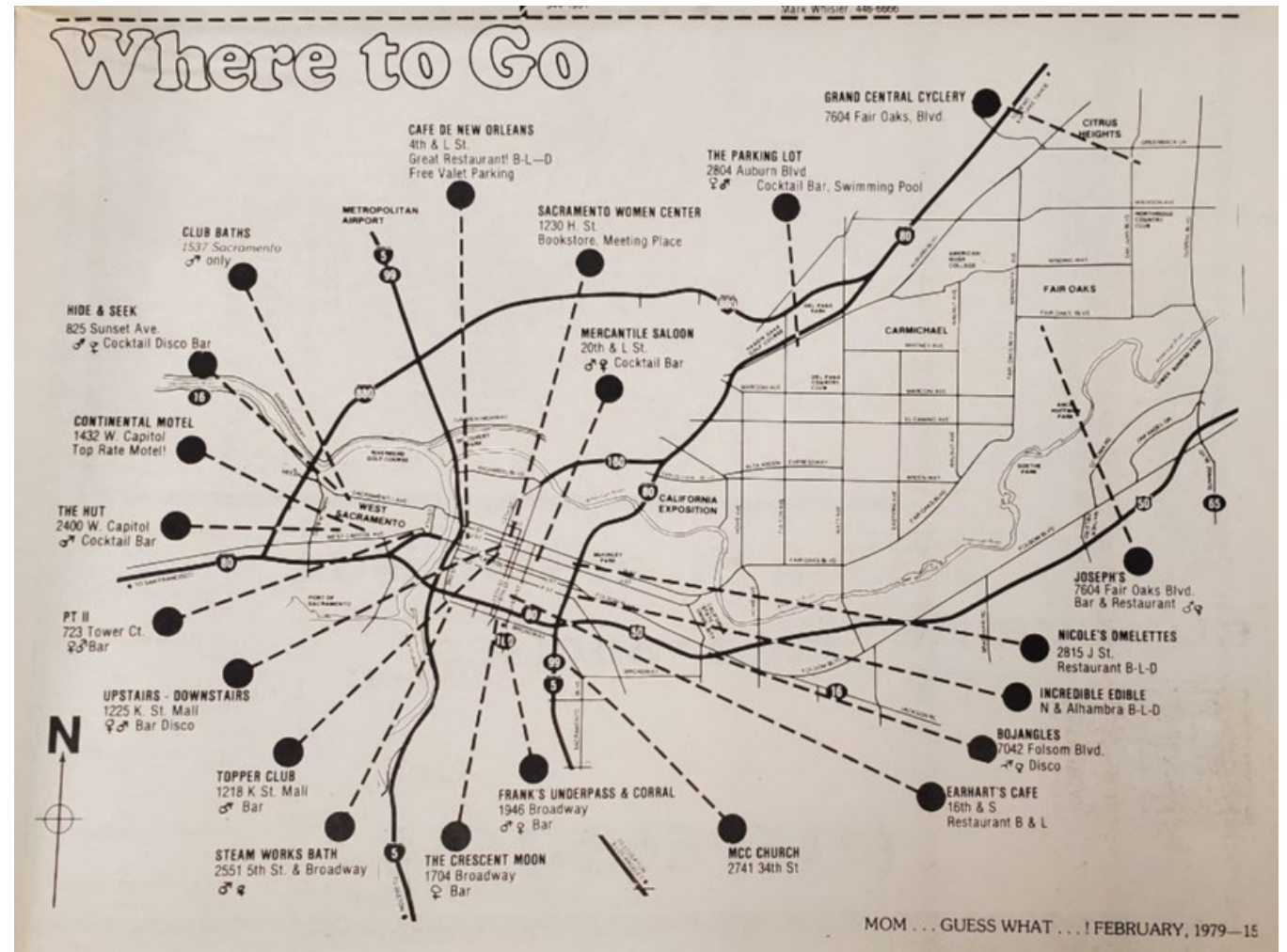
## 2. Finding One Another: World War II & Postwar-Era Sacramento (1941-1968)

- Overview of understanding of gender and sexuality in U.S. and California from WWII to 1960s
- The Cold War & Lavender Scare Crackdowns
  - Architect Earl Barnett (Memorial Auditorium)
- First Homophile Groups
  - Rick Stokes & the Americans for Responsible Citizenship (ARC)
    - Protest at 1966 California State Fair
    - 1967 forum at First Methodist Church
- **Cruising & Gay Bar Culture (1940s-1960s)**
  - West Sacramento vs. Sacramento



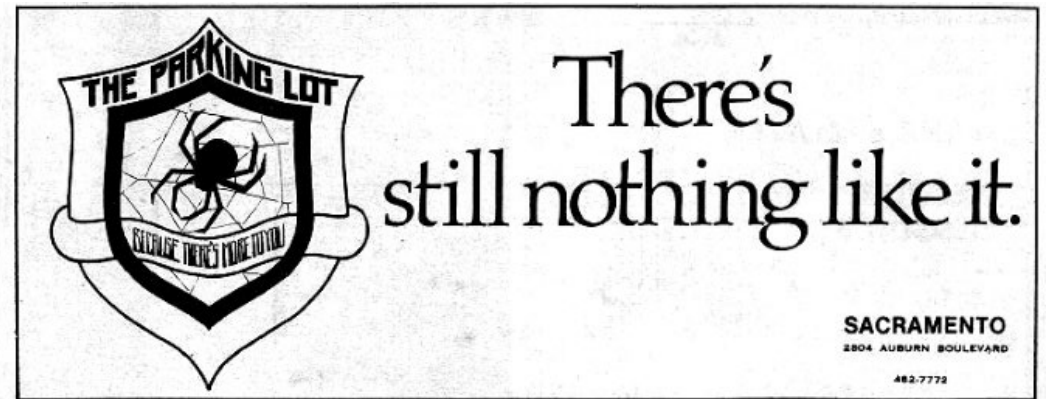
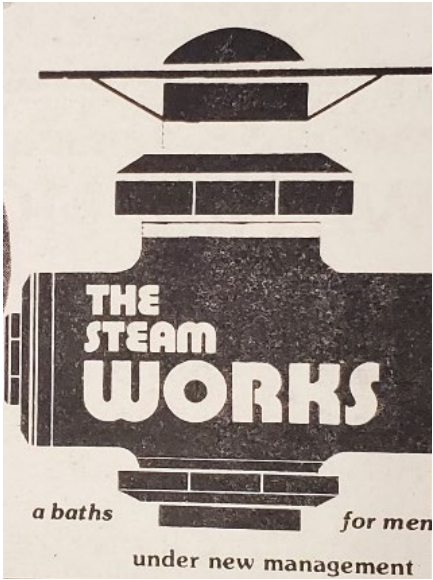
### 3. Out & Proud: Development of a Visible Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community (1969-2000)

- First open, visible elements of LGBTQ+ community in Sacramento
  - After Stonewall Uprising
  - Repeal of 1975 anti-sodomy laws
- Gay Bars & Cruising Locations (1969-2000)
- Group residences
- Businesses
- Formation of Lavender Heights



### 3. Out & Proud: Development of a Visible Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community (1969-2000)

#### Cruising & Gay Bar Culture (ca. 1969-2000)





### 3. Out & Proud: Development of a Visible Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community (1969-2000)



**Community Centers & Services**



**Newspapers & Media**



**Arts & Entertainment**



**Sports & Athletics**



**Professional Clubs & Organizations**

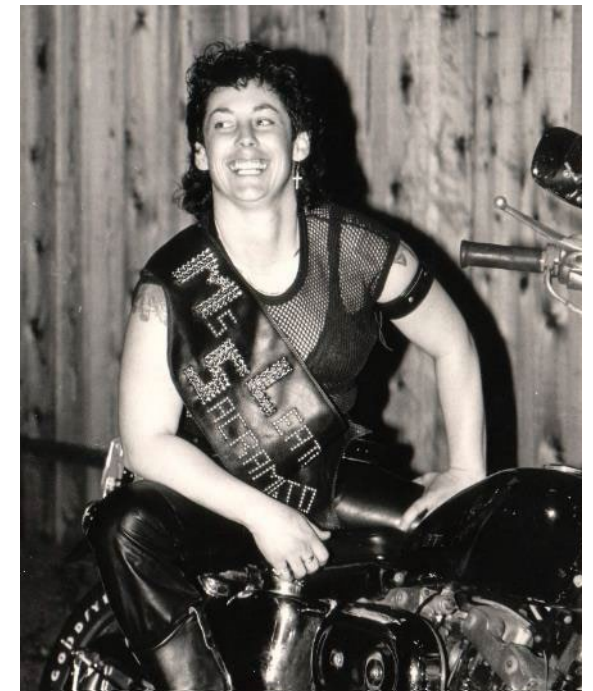


**Religious & Spiritual Expression**

### 3. Out & Proud: Development of a Visible Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community (1969-2000)

#### LGBTQ+ Social Clubs & Charitable Organizations

- Pillars of the Community
- CGNIE/Imperial Court of Sacramento
- BIPOC
  - Nia Collective
  - Black Men's Xchange
  - Gay and Lesbian African Americans (GALA)
  - Private parties
- Leather
  - Valley Knights
  - Leather and Lace
  - Sacramento Leathermen (Sacramento Leather Corps)
  - Leather titles (Mr. Sacramento Leather and Ms. Sacramento Leather, Mr. Bolt, etc.)
  - The Open Book




### 3. Out & Proud: Development of a Visible Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community (1969-2000)

#### Gay Pride Parades

- First in 1979 march from Way Station to Capitol
- Lambda Freedom Fair at McKinley Park
- Freedom Fair at Southside Park



SACRAMENTO  
**GAY PRIDE RALLY**   
SUNDAY, JUNE 17  
2 TO 5 PM

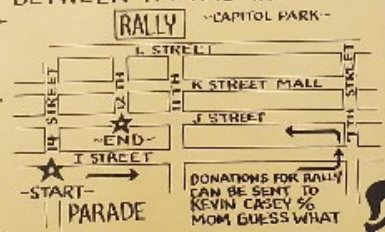
SPEAKERS: LEONARD MATLOVICH, THERESA CORRIGAN  
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GAY  
AND NON-GAY ORGANIZATIONS

MUSIC: ROBBIE FULLER AND OTHER MUSICIANS  
SKIT: LE THÉÂTRE LESBIEN

FOLLOWED BY FREE BUFFETS AT: THE TOPPER,  
UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS, BO JANGLES.  
FREE LEMONADE BY LADY GARNET PRESENTS AND PARTICIPATING BARS  
VICTORY DANCE AT BO JANGLES 7:00 PM - MUSIC BY LIGHTHOUSE  
FEATURING JEFF SIEGEL & GAIL SMITH

LOCATED ON LAWN AT NORTH ENTRANCE TO CAPITOL,  
OFF 'L' STREET BETWEEN 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup>

**PARADE**  
MEET 14<sup>TH</sup> & I<sup>ST</sup>.  
12:00 TO 12:30  
MARCH AT 1:00  
Call Clay at  
Way Station  
447-1171

**RALLY** -CAPITOL PARK-  
  
DONATIONS FOR RALLY  
CAN BE SENT TO  
KEVIN CASEY %  
MOM GUESS WHAT

BRING A PICNIC LUNCH AND FRISBEES

GRAPHIC BY GENE LORINGTON

## 4. AIDS & The Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community's Response (1981-1996)

- **AIDS Advocacy in Sacramento**

- Organizations

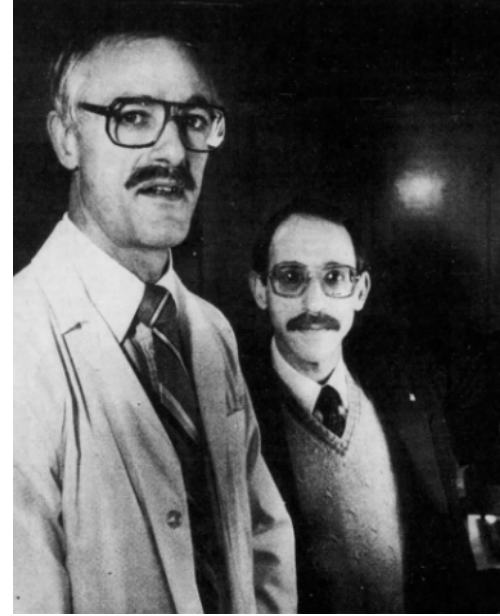
- Sacramento AIDS Foundation
- CARES
- LIFE AIDS Lobby (Laurie McBride)
- Golden Rule Services (Clarmundo Sullivan)
- Hospices (Hope House and Avalon House)

- Individuals

- Dr. Harvey Thompson
- Dr. Sandy Pomerantz
- Dr. Neil Flynn
- Dr. Elizabeth Harrison
- Stan Hadden & Ken Topper
- Laurie McBride

- Events

- 1985 Mayors Task Force
- 1988 and 1990 "die-ins" at Capitol
- 1996 introduction of NNRTI drugs



## 5. Political Activism & The Fight for LGBTQ+ Rights in California's State Capital (1969-2000)

### The Gay Liberation Movement in Sacramento

- Sac State
  - Society for Homosexual Freedom (Gay Liberation Front)
  - Women's Studies and Gay Studies Programs

### Political Advocacy & The Push for Legislative Change

- Gay Rights Policies and Legislation
  - Briggs Initiative
  - Steps toward ban on employment discrimination
  - 1992 domestic partner ordinance
- Political Advocacy Groups
- Gay Rights Marches
- Responses to Continuing Discrimination
  - Lawsuits
  - Don't Ask Don't Tell
  - Marriage Equality



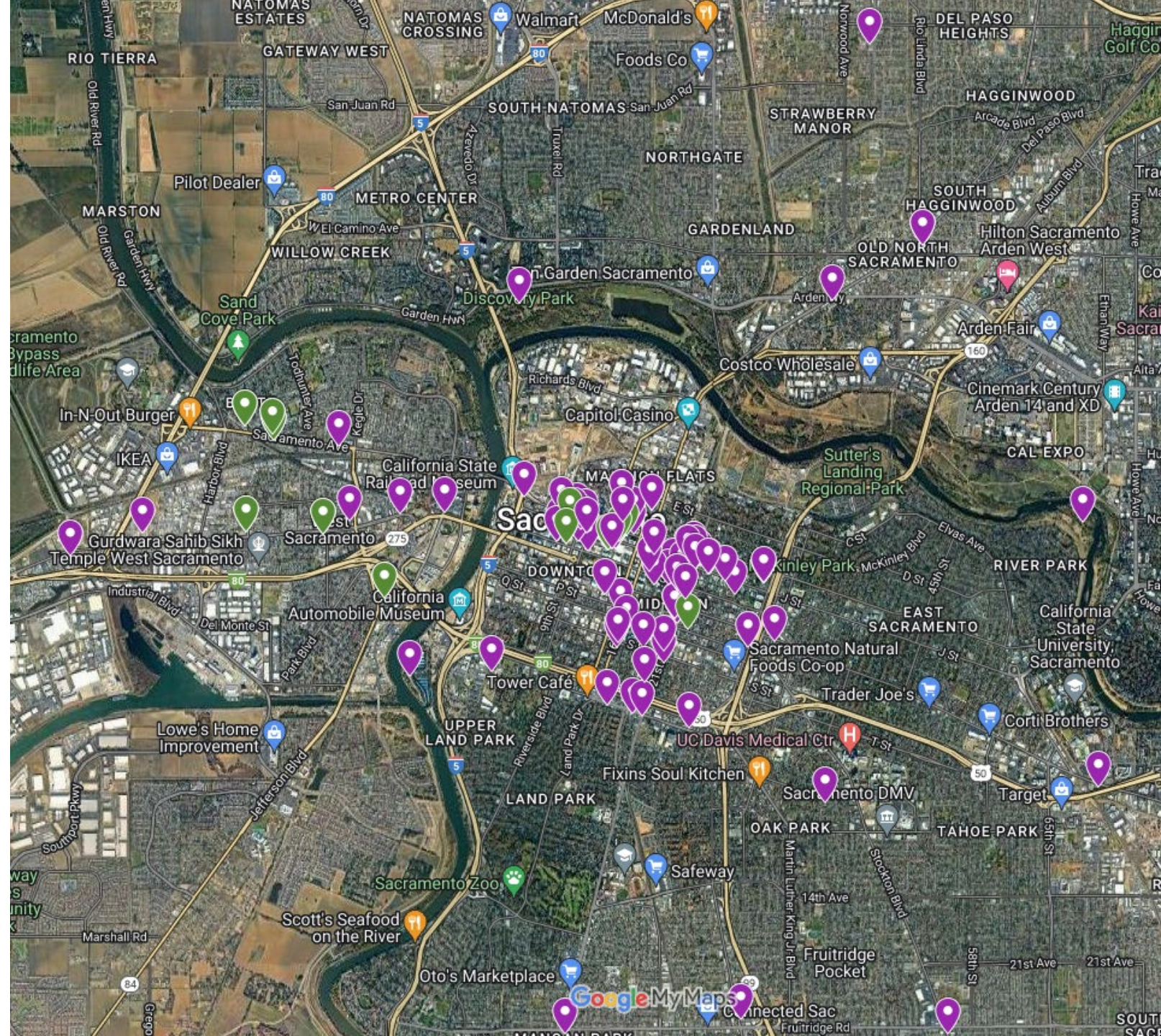
# LGBTQ+ HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

## 2 Parts

- Lavender Heights Historic District
- 5 individual Landmarks

## Methodology

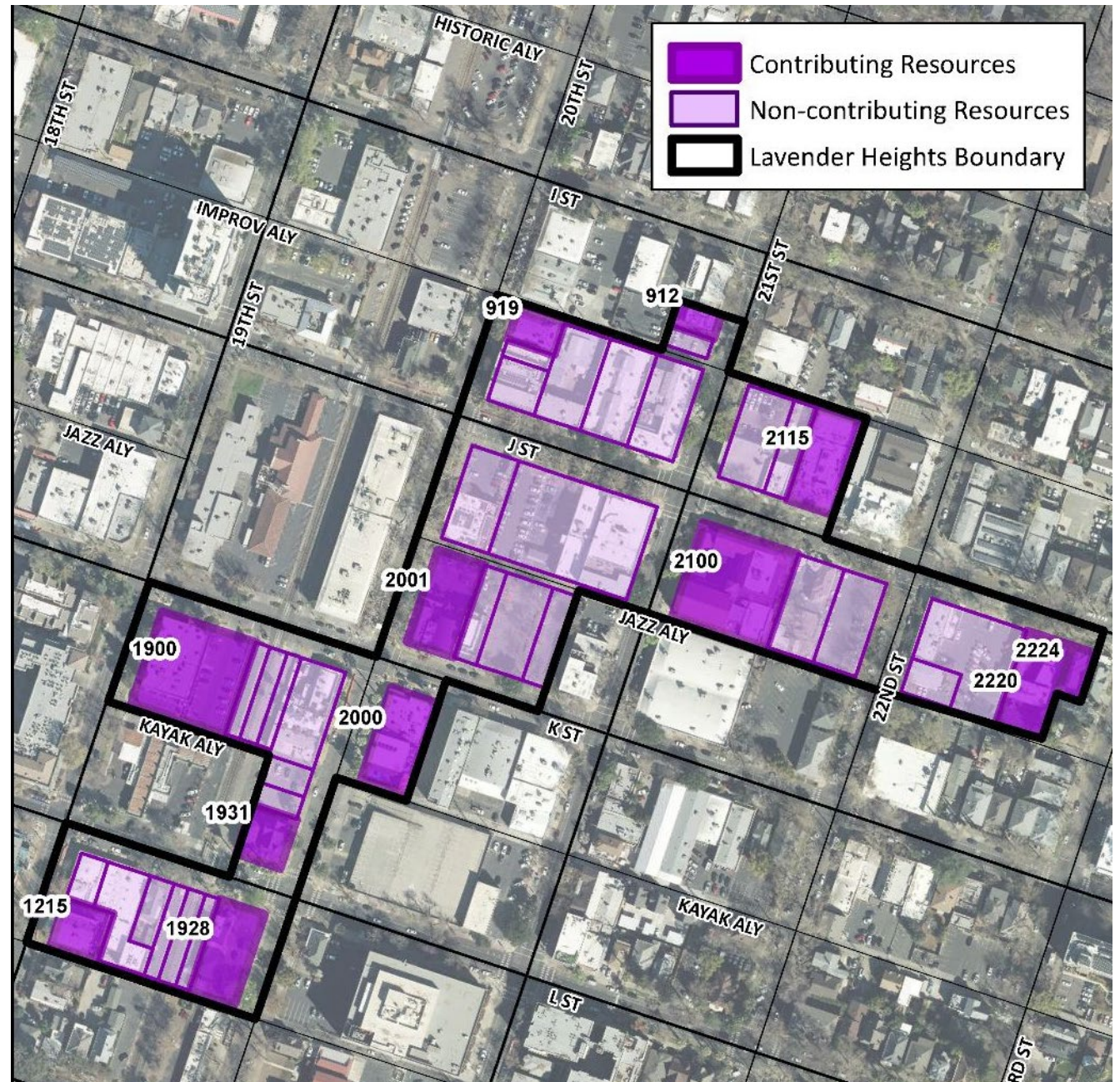
- Research (oral histories, books, dissertations, newspaper articles, etc.)
- Mapped addresses
- 120+ properties



# Lavender Heights Historic District

## Methodology

- Identified concentration of places
- Determined those that survive
- Developed boundary



# Lavender Heights Historic District

- Variety of buildings with different uses important to LGBTQ+ community life
- 12 contributors:
  - Lambda Community Center (1931 L Street and 919 20th Street)
  - The Mercantile Saloon (1928 L Street)
  - Faces/K Street Station (2000 K Street)
  - The Western/The Depot (2001 K Street)
  - Sacramento Women's Center/Gifted Gardener (2220 J Street)
  - First Sacramento Women's Building (2224 J Street)
  - Dr. Harvey Thompson and Dr. Sandy Pomerantz offices / The Open Book (912 21st Street)
  - First United Methodist Church(2100 J Street)
  - Sacramento AIDS Foundation
    - 2115 J Street (1985)
    - 1900 K Street (1986-1994)
  - New Helvetia Roaster (1215 19<sup>th</sup> Street)





# Lavender Heights Historic District

Historically significant group of cultural landmarks associated with the development of a visible LGBTQ+ community in Sacramento, starting in 1967 through the year 2000, when increasing integration of the LGBTQ+ community into mainstream society resulted in distinct changes to the tight-knit character of the community.



# Individual Historic Landmarks

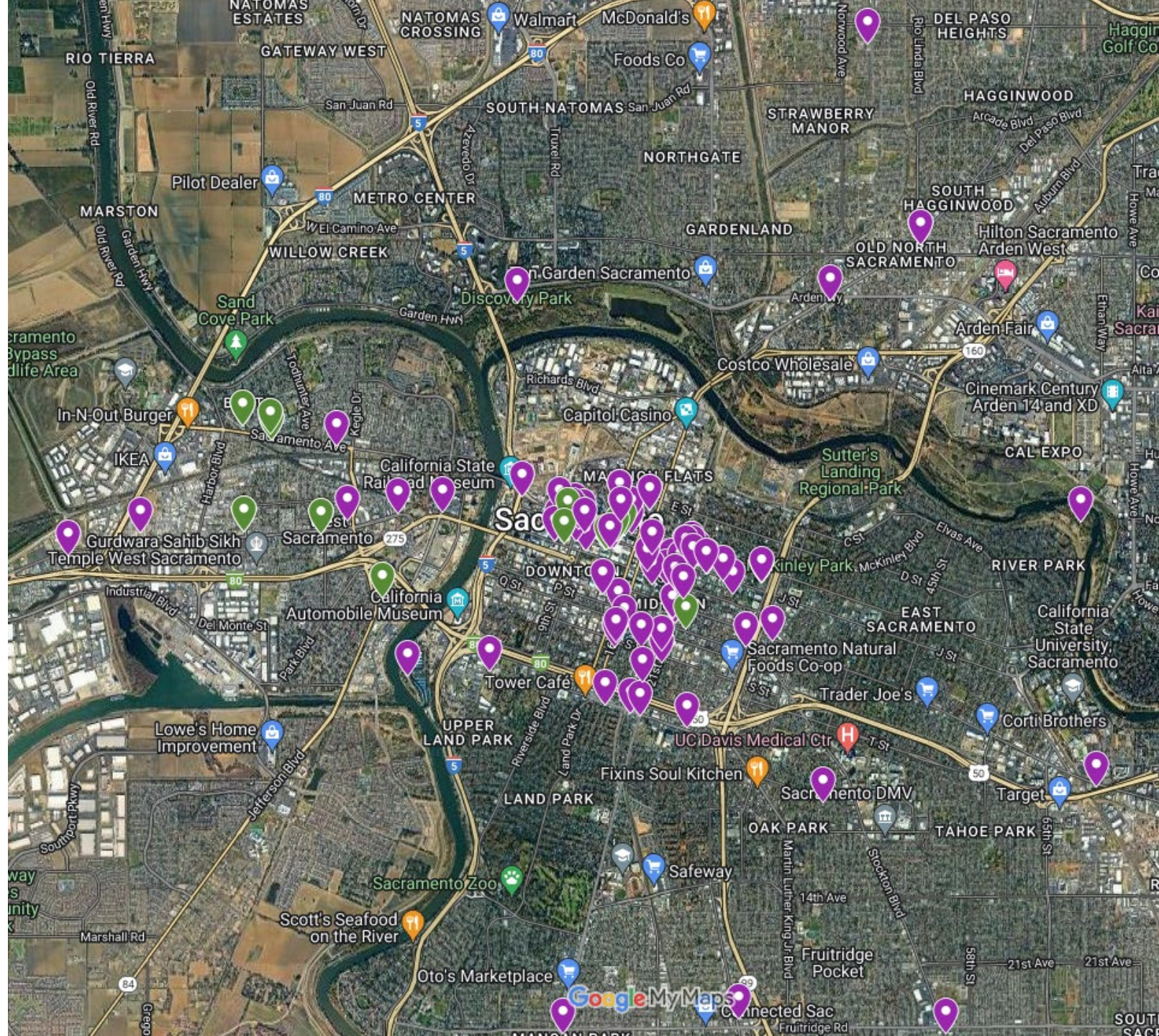
- Protect and highlight places important to LGBTQ+ history
- 5 nominated to Sacramento Register now as part of grant
- More can be nominated

## Methodology

- Research (oral histories, books, dissertations, newspaper articles, etc.)

## How were properties selected?

- Not already landmarked
- Represent variety of uses and neighborhoods
- Do they survive?
- Do they have integrity? (Are they recognizable?)



## 1. Alternative Coffee Shop (2215 P Street)

- Coffeeshop created in 1971 as a space for young gay people to socialize outside the gay bar scene.
- Located in apartment of Edgar, possibly Edgar Carpenter, founding member of the Society of Homosexual Freedom and Gay Studies Program at Sac State
- Site of early SHF meetings and gay potluck dinners



## 2. Bo Jangles (7042 Folsom Boulevard)

- First bar opened by Terry Sidie in Sacramento in 1976.
- Opened just after repeal of California anti-sodomy laws in 1975. Few bars in Sacramento at the time.
- Important early social gathering place in Sacramento City for people to be publicly out and meet others like them.



### 3. Incredible Edible Place (1401 Alhambra Boulevard)

- Restaurant opened by Paul Fitzgerald in 1977.
- Also opened the Upstairs Downstairs bar downtown.
- Coined name of “Faces.”
- Openly employed and served a mix of gay and straight patrons.
- Open late to provide early social alternative to bar scene for LGBTQ+ community.
- Site of early meetings of LGBTQ+ groups, including the Advocates for Gay State Employees (AGSE), River City Democratic Club.



## 4. *Mom Guess What...!* Offices (1725 L Street)

- Site of MGW offices from ca. 1988-2003 (15 years), the paper's longest known location.
- Newspaper for LGBTQ+ community and allies founded by Linda Birner that ran from 1978-2009.
- Covered important LGBTQ+ legislation, local news, arts and entertainment, calendar or social events, and more
- Important for connecting community members.



## 5. The Blue Moon (2565 Franklin Boulevard)

- Popular women's bar owned by Shannon Morgan from ca. 1985-1990
- Popular gathering spot for women's sports teams (softball, rugby)
- Site of first Ms. Leather Sacramento competitions (1987-1990)



# Call to Action

- **Public comments on draft #2 due October 27<sup>th</sup>**
- Comment online, email, phone, or in hard copy
- Ask questions or make a comment
- Share your story: every story is important
  - Let the community tell us what is important
  - Help guide our research
- Tell us why the project interests you
- Share flyers, information with community

# Staff Contacts

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